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The President's Daily Brief

January 12, 1977

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

January 12, 1977

25X1

Table of Contents

25X1

Egypt:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Page 1)

25X1

Lebanon: The Syrian chief of staff has acknowledged to Ambassador Murphy that he has no illusions about the difficulty of collecting arms from combatants in Lebanon. (Page 2)

25X1

South Korea:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Page 3)

25X1

Rhodesia: The decision of front-line African presidents--reached at their meeting in Lusaka last weekend--to give full support to the Patriotic Front alliance of Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe has triggered a bitter response from rival Rhodesian nationalists. (Page 4)

25X1

Notes: Belgium-Libya; East Germany - West Germany; Mexico (Pages 5 and 6)

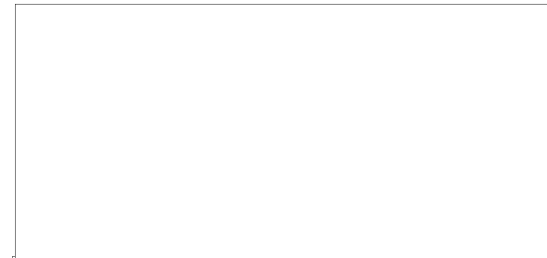
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LEBANON: *Syrian Chief of Staff Shihabi acknowledged to Ambassador Murphy in Damascus on Monday that Syria has no illusions about the difficulty of collecting arms from combatants in Lebanon.*

The quadripartite committee of Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait--established in October to oversee the Lebanon cease-fire--announced last week that all heavy weapons would be collected and all brigades of the Palestine Liberation Army would leave Lebanon by midnight tonight. The Iraqi troops in Lebanon also were to depart.

The Palestinians agreed in principle in late December, after strenuous resistance, to permit the collection of their heavy armament at central storage points guarded by the Arab peacekeeping force, but have used various tactics to postpone the implementation of the agreement. The quadripartite committee's decision to impose a deadline was finally forced by Syria, according to Shihabi, to end further delay.

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Syria regards this as only the beginning of an arduous process. Shihabi told the ambassador that he expects all combatant elements to lie about the number of arms they have on hand and said he anticipates some fighting as Syrian forces carry out a massive arms sweep.

It is not clear what, if any, provision has been made for arms collection in southern Lebanon, although Shihabi's remarks suggest that the Palestinians may have been allowed to retain weapons there. Shihabi also told the ambassador that he believes Palestinian morale is so low in the south that cross-border raids into Israel are unlikely.

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SOUTH KOREA: [redacted]

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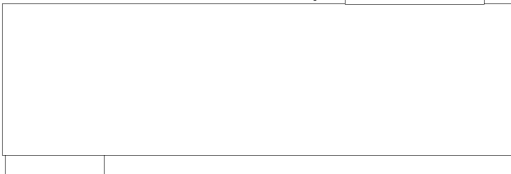
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RHODESIA: The decision of front-line African presidents--reached at their meeting in Lusaka last weekend--to give full support to the Patriotic Front alliance of Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe has triggered a bitter response from rival Rhodesian nationalists.

Bishop Muzorewa and Ndabaningi Sithole, both of whom participated with Nkomo and Mugabe at the recent Geneva conference, have de-

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The presidents apparently reached their decision out of frustration over their repeated failures to unify the Rhodesian nationalists.

It is not clear how far they intend to go in promoting the Patriotic Front. They may try to get the Organization of African Unity and other countries to support Nkomo and Mugabe.

The presidents apparently believe that Sithole has little support either within or outside Rhodesia, and that if international support and financial aid for Muzorewa are reduced, his standing among Rhodesia's blacks will decline.

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NOTES

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Belgian

Libya.

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East German security
police yesterday pre-
vented private visitors
from calling at the
West German mission in
East Berlin, obviously
another measure to keep
GDR citizens from ap-
plying for exit visas.

The East German government based
its action on a regulation that
prohibits private citizens from
visiting foreign missions unless
they have received official per-
mission.

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West German [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] office in East
Berlin has been sealed off from
the public for the first time
since it opened in 1974. Bonn
will find it difficult to take
effective countermeasures.

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[redacted] Mexican [redacted]
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